

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health
OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Thursday, September 22, 2011

~ **Approved Minutes** ~

**Please note the minutes are a brief summary and
not a word for word transcription of events at this meeting.**

Larry Gasco Chairman, Presiding

I. Call to Order – Larry Gasco

- The meeting was called to order by Larry Gasco
- Roll Call – Canetana Hurd
Attendance recorded as follows:
Absent Excused: Greg Thompson, George Caballero, Hayward McNeill,
and Phillip Chen
- Approval of Minutes – Larry Gasco
July 2011 minutes were unanimously approved.
MSC - Perrou/Lubin

II. Chairman's Report – Larry Gasco

- **December Offsite meeting** – Plans to hold the Commission meeting at St. Barnabas Senior Services is moving forward. The Commission will give the center a gift card for their hospitality in December. Donations will be collected at the November meeting.
- **Chairman** – The Commission passed a motion at the July meeting to honor the contributions of Dr. Norman L. Farberow. Dr. Farberow is the pioneer of the suicide hotline and dedicated a lifetime to suicide prevention. The recognition was held at the Suicide Prevention conference. Larry Gasco attended the conference and on behalf of the Commission presented a scroll to Dr. Farberow.

Mr. Gasco attended a policy forum on September 8-9, 2011 Sacramento. He spoke about a workshop facilitated by Dianne Cummings who presented a unique finance plan for realignment and repositioning of state and local government. Other information discussed at the forum was about Medi-Cal issues.

- **Latino Coalition Issue** – Mr. Carlos Orellana who regularly attends the commission meetings spoke of an issue that occurred at the LBHI conference during lunch. While in the buffet line, a DMH employee approached the consumer and publically reprimanded him in a child-like manner which was humiliating. DMH management will address the incident. Mr. Orellana wants the DMH employee to apologize.
- The following action items were carried over from the July meeting:
 1. The partnership role accepted. Commissioners Jerry Lubin and Dr. Howard Askins will work more closely with Susan Rajlal on legislative issues that impact mental health.

2. Review letter to Board on FY 2011-2012 goals – motion made to revise letter with new language that strengthens oversight and accountability to a specific collaboration.
(MSC Sosa/Rabens-pending written revision)
3. Request to have Dr. Southard inform DMH Providers, contract and directly operated of the Commission's oversight and responsibility role – Larry Gasco will meet with Dr. Southard regarding this issue
- **13th Annual Awards** – Planning for the Commission's 13th annual awards has begun. A planning committee was formed work on board letter and plan activities for the ceremony.
- **New Commissioner** – Judy Cooperberg is completing the process for the new appointee from Supervisor Michael Antonovich (Fifth District). Ms. Cooperberg will fill the vacancy left by Dr. Helen Wolff.

III. DMH Report given by Dr. Robin Kay, Chief Deputy Director

- **Budget** – At the close of FY 2010/2011 DMH is \$4 million ahead but realignment was discovered and decreased the total to \$17 million. The 1115 Waiver and Healthy Way LA are generating the revenue DMH projected from the directly operated clinics. The revenue reflects the close scrutiny from the STATS process.
- **Health Reform** – The Health Way LA program has 21 new community partners. The partners are using the new models and treatment plans. The program is going very well.
- **Inmates** – On October 1, AB 109 which amends the state's option to transfer offenders that commit felonies to county prisons will take effect. DMH is working with the Chief Probation Officer to get information on inmates returning to Los Angeles. Funding will be provided for ancillary services like substance abuse and housing. DMH received a positive inspection of the Jail Services programs from the Department of Justice.

Legislative Report – Susan Rajlal

- Ms. Rajlal discussed the following issues:
- Three bills are in route for Governor Brown's that will offer financial progress. AB 1297, AB 397, AB 695.
- A Los Angeles City ordinance intended to restrict persons with disabilities to live in R3 zone facilities.
- The California budget was passed on a projection that revenue will increase

IV. Commissioners' Reports

Frank Baron – Mr. Baron will be attending the California Local Mental Health Board and Commissions quarterly meeting in October. Mr. Baron is currently teaching a Family to Family class at Edelman Mental Health Center.

Jerry Lubin – Mr. Lubin reported on the activities of the last SLT meeting. The meeting focused on continuity.

Victoria Sofro – Ms. Sofro spoke about Jennifer King who passed away suddenly in an accident. Ms. Sofro commented on Ms. King's accomplishments in supported employment and education, and dedication as an occupational therapist. Ms. Sofro requested the meeting adjourn in the memory of Jennifer Faith King.

Ms. Sofro attended the grand opening of Didi Hirsch Mental Health Center. The facility replaced the Verdugo site and filled the gap in Glendale.

Carlos Sosa – Mr. Sosa represented the Commission at the New Employee Orientation. Mr. Sosa reported there were 71 new employees which was surprising but most was clinical appointments. He stated he will volunteer again.

V. Community and SAAC Reports

LACCC (Los Angeles County Client Coalition) – Pam Inaba

Pam Inaba reported LACCC is working strategic objections and voter registration drives.

VI. Public Comments –

William Legre – Discussed employment for consumers

Robert Coto – Commented on his working situation

Olga Ramirez – The Latino Coalition did not have a translator at the last LBHI conference.

Sawako Nitao – Attended the California Memorial project. It was a good experience. Ron Schraiber talked about the Kelly Thomas death, homelessness and mental illness.

VII. Meeting adjournment –

The Los Angeles County Mental Health Commission meeting on September 22, 2011 was adjourned in memory of Jennifer Faith King.

VIII. Next meeting information

Thursday, October 27, 2011

12 – 2:30 pm

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration

Room 739

500 West Temple Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Please contact the Commission office at (213) 738 4772 if you need more information

Minutes submitted by Canetana Hurd